



Introduced Version

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. ____

Introduced by: Austin

A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing the importance of all schools and libraries being equipped with high-capacity, high-speed broadband connectivity.

Whereas, February 5, 2014, marked national Digital Learning Day, bringing to the forefront the broadband imperative currently facing schools and libraries in all communities across Indiana;

Whereas, Broadband has become the enabling technology of the modern learning environment, is now as vital to schools as brick and mortar infrastructure and utilities, and has the power to transform classrooms and transmit information, helping to support students in acquiring 21st century skills and making learning environments more engaging and relevant;

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Whereas, Broadband and other technology tools have the ability to increase education capacity as well through online academies, project-based and personalized learning, AP and dual credit, and STEM initiatives;

Whereas, Increased broadband capacity will also improve the efficiency of data management and information sharing by schools with parents and community stakeholders, as teacher evaluations can be moved online to provide immediate feedback to help improve classroom instruction, and parents can be more readily informed about their students' academic progress;

Whereas, Libraries benefit from high-capacity, high-speed broadband connectivity as well, as they have notably become community resource centers of digital information where people can learn about healthcare, e-government services, search for available jobs, and more;

Whereas, While reliable internet connectivity has become a necessity of schools and libraries, the current capacity of the broadband connections is inadequate;

Whereas, Despite this need, school and library budgets are constrained by inflation and other expenses, the state school and library connectivity grant only addresses 10 percent of the costs for the local portion of the requests for these services, and thus affordability and funding remain a barrier to securing adequate bandwidth capacity; and

Whereas, If Indiana's bold educational initiatives, including creating thriving students and a high-tech workforce, are to become successful and sustainable, the state must prioritize in terms of investing in a robust, fiber-based network of internet broadband to connect the demand for this technology with the necessary funding: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives
- 2 recognizes the broadband imperative facing schools and libraries in all
- 3 communities across Indiana.



1 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
2 Representatives transmit copies of this resolution to the executive
3 directors of the Indiana State Library, the Indiana Library Federation,
4 the Indiana Association of School Business Officials, the Indiana
5 Association of Public School Superintendents, the Indiana School
6 Boards Association, the Indiana Urban Schools Association, the
7 Indiana Rural and Small Schools Association, the Indiana Association
8 of School Principals, the Consortium on School Networking, the
9 Indiana Chief Technology Officers Council, the Indiana Federation of
10 Teachers, and the Indiana State Teachers Association.

